

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~INFORMATION REPORT~~

CD NO.

COUNTRY Austria

DATE DISTR.

SUBJECT Miscellaneous Information on Communists in Austria

NO. OF PAGE

PLACE 25X1A6a

NO. OF ENCL
(LISTED BELOW)

ACQUIRED

DATE OF INFO

SUPPLEMENT
REPORT NO.

25X1X6

This report is a collection of miscellaneous information on the Austrian Communist Party (KPOe), which has been obtained from various sources. Items are grouped under general headings, and each item is separately dated.

Propaganda and Election Plans

25X1X6

21 February 1949

1. At an informal meeting of KPOe minor functionaries on 23 February 1949, SOEL, section chief of Section III at KPOe District Headquarters, Vienna II, stated that Friedl FUERNBERG, KPOe General Secretary, told a meeting of section and district heads on 21 February 1949 that the KPOe could not expect more than six seats in the Austrian Parliament as a result of the next elections. * FUERNBERG allegedly advised his audience not to be overly sanguine with respect to KPOe election prospects.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

STATE #	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NSRB	DISTRIBUTION																
ARMY #	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIR	FBI																	

Document No. 004

NO CHANGE in Class.

☐ DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS

DDP Memo. 4 Apr 77

Approved For Release 1999/09/24 : CIA-RDP82-00457R002700050004-7

Date: 15 MAY 1978

By: 016

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY~~

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1A2g

25X1X6

- 2 -

- 24 January 1949

2. On 24 January 1949, Franz HONNER of the Central Committee was overheard to remark to Franz MAREK, also of the Central Committee, that election efforts on the part of all Austrian political parties except the KPOe would be unavailing, since the Communists will be in power in Austria before the elections will have been held.

- 23 February 1949

3. At a meeting of youth leaders of the KPOe on 23 February 1949, VOKROJ, representative of the Communist-dominated Freie Oesterreichische Jugend (FOeJ) in the Presidium of the Trade Union Youth, outlined election plans of the KPOe as follows: **
- a. Only a political coup can bring about a change in the Austrian political scene advantageous to the KPOe. The KPOe will operate more effectively after the departure of the Western Allies.
 - b. Since the KPOe cannot be sure of complete and sincere cooperation on the part of Erwin SCHARF and his left wing Socialists, there will be no union between SCHARF's party and the KPOe.
 - c. KPOe election propaganda will be concentrated on Lower Austria and Burgenland; the KPOe has little chance of increasing its vote in the non-Soviet zones or in Vienna.

KPOe Policy

25X1X6

- 8 February 1949

4. As a result of the sharp criticism which has been directed against the KPOe at almost all recent Cominform meetings, source considers that a re-organization of top KPOe leadership in the near future is to be expected. He cites a recent statement of SCHLIDTBAUER, KPOe district leader of Vienna II, who claimed that the Cominform has charged the KPOe with intolerable passivity and accused it of degenerating into a "bourgeois party". ***

25X1X6

5. [REDACTED] there are currently two rival factions within the Central Committee of the KPOe. One faction, led by Franz HONNER, advocates the attainment of a Communist state in Austria by revolution. A more moderate group, lead by Ernst FISCHER, is striving to achieve the same end without resort to violence. Up to the present, source claims, FISCHER's policy has been pursued, but its lack of results has made many Communists incline toward the policy of HONNER. Such important members of the Central Committee as Viktor ELSER, Laurenz GENNER, and Friedl FUERNBERG support HONNER's attitude, although FUERNBERG, as Party Secretary, has been careful to avoid creating dissension within the Party. KOPLINIG, Chairman of the Central Committee, is only a figurehead, according to source. ***

Militant Action

25X1X6

- 30 January 1949

6. A so-called Fighting Association against Warmongers (Kampfbund gegen die Kriegshetzer) was set up in the course of a meeting held on 30 January 1949 at KPOe District Headquarters for Vienna XXI, am Spitz 16. The meeting was attended by representatives of FOeJ, veterans of the Spanish Civil War, and representatives of various Communist front organizations. The head of the organization will allegedly be Soviet Col. Ivan CHERKOV; HONNER and FUERNBERG are said to be members in name only. The newly-established organization has the general mission of "furthering the realization of Communism in Austria by all available means and removing all obstacles to the spread of Communism." In particular, the organization,

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY~~

25X1A2g

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

- 3 -

- a. Identification of all Austrians and all persons not nationals of the occupying powers who are employed by, or work with, an Allied Power.
- b. Identification of anti-Communists.
- c. Establishment of arms caches.
- d. Identification of residences of the Western Allies.
- e. Identification of military units of the Western Allies, with related intelligence and O/B material.
- f. Execution of armed security measures and sabotage tasks. *
- g. Cooperation with the Soviets in intelligence objectives and in kidnappings. Intelligence activities will be directed by one Nikolaus KRAUSE ** from the Vienna Komendatura at the Hotel Bellaria.

25X1X6

Source [] - 30 January 1949

7. On 30 January 1949, a meeting took place at KPOe Headquarters, Vienna XXI, at which FUERNBERG, HONNER, and other prominent Austrian Communists are alleged to have met with representatives of the Communist-dominated League of Concentration Camp Victims (KZ-Verband) and with Austrian Communists of Czechoslovak and Yugoslav background. Discussion centered about the compilation of a list of anti-Communist Austrians and the recruitment of clean-up squads (Raumungskommandos); the latter would have the assignment of liquidating traitors to the Party and anti-Communist intelligence agents.

Trade Union Activity

25X1X6

Source [] - late February 1949

8. The Central Committee is greatly interested in increasing KPOe influence among workers in Vorerberg. Cells are being organized among employees of the spinning and weaving mills and some success has been attained, particularly among female employees of these plants. The KPOe propaganda line consists of agitation for increased wages and bonuses. ***

25X1X6

Source [] - late January 1949

9. Communist activity in Vienna trade unions, all strongly dominated by the Socialists, has achieved little success. There is a Communist cell within the Section of Private Employees in Vienna V; one man, a certain Josef ENGLER, is active on behalf of the Communists in the Wood-workers Section of Vienna XVI. Infiltration of the trade union youth organization (Gewerkschaftsjugend) has failed, now that BURGHART and Walter HEIL, active Communists who were being used principally for this purpose, have both discontinued their efforts; BURGHART has withdrawn from all political activity, and Walter HEIL has joined the Socialist youth program after publically retracting his former Communist views in Trotzdem, the organ of the Socialist youth movement. ****

Communist Youth Organizations

25X1X6

Source [] - 9 December 1948

10. A meeting of officials of Kinderland, Communist front organization for young children, took place on 9 December 1949, in the Haus der Jugend, Vienna XV, Felberstrasse 42-6. Dr. Gustav JELINKO, head of the organization, addressed the meeting and demanded increased Communist activity to be sponsored by Kinderland. *****

25X1X6

Source [] - 27 January 1949

11. a. Main headquarters of the three Communist-front organizations, Freie

~~CONFIDENTIAL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY~~

~~SECRET~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL - U.S. EYES ONLY~~

25X1A2g

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

- 4 -

been moved to Vienna IV, Prinz Eugenstrasse 12. At this address, the city headquarters of FOeJ has four rooms and Kinderland has two rooms.*

- b. Georg SCHWARZ was appointed FOeJ provincial leader for Lower Austria; Fritz WEISSENBECK continues as Vienna chairman of the FOeJ. Paul FRISCHAUER, formerly first secretary of FOeJ and assistant leader of Vienna FOeJ, has apparently discontinued his activities, though further details are not available. Other personnel in Vienna FOeJ are Fritz VOSOL, secretary; Otto ASCHER, in charge of administration and social activities; Gisi ISER, former district leader of Vienna VIII. Herbert STEINER remains federal secretary of FOeJ; Otto BRICHACEK, member of the Central Committee and national head of FOeJ, has been less active in the organization. ASCHER has recently stated that FOeJ is in a precarious financial situation and would be unable to hold together, should the Soviets withdraw their support.**

25X1X6

25X1X6

Source - 25 February 1949

12. a. The situation of FOeJ has been steadily worsening except in Lower Austria. The new FOeJ provincial leader for Lower Austria, Georg SCHWARZ, has, however, not only checked the decline of FOeJ but even improved its status. His success is to be attributed in part to Soviet support in providing vehicles by which members can be brought to the meetings. The Lower Austrian office of FOeJ has in fact one automobile and two motorcycles on permanent assignment and can supplement this transportation with Soviet trucks after clearing an application through the KPOe Central Committee.
- b. The present strength of FOeJ in Vienna is approximately as follows (a "group", in the discussion below, includes 15 to 40 members):
- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Vienna I | None |
| Vienna II | None, since all FOeJ groups were disbanded; still three groups of Junge Garde. |
| Vienna III | One weak group; most of the former FOeJ members have joined Marxistische Jugend units which are seeking to attract left wing Socialists.*** |
| Vienna IV | One group |
| Vienna V | One group |
| Vienna VI | None |
| Vienna VII | None |
| Vienna VIII | One group allegedly dominated by left wing Socialists. |
| Vienna IX | One weak group |
| Vienna X | About 100 members, but the organization is disintegrating. |
| Vienna XI | About 100 members; strong, well-organized and steady. |
| Vienna XII | One strong group |
| Vienna XIII | One weak group |
| Vienna XIV-XV | Two groups combined; still very weak. |
| Vienna XVI | Two strong groups |
| Vienna XVII | One weak group |
| Vienna XVIII | None |
| Vienna XIX | None |
| Vienna XX | About 50 members. (In September 1948 there were 150.) |
| Vienna XXI | About 200 members. (This is one half as many as in September 1948.) |
| Vienna XXII | About 400 members. (One-half of the membership of September 1948.) |
- c. In the factories, FOeJ is strong only at Osram, Globus Verlag (where membership in FOeJ is compulsory for apprentices), Glanzstoff-Fabrik, and Rax Werk.

~~SECRET~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

25X1A2g

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

- 5 -

- d. Total estimated membership in Vienna is about 1,000 to 1,500 for FOeJ and 500 to 1,000 for Junge Garde. These figures may be compared with an estimated 400 to 500 members of the OeVP youth movement and an estimated 3,500 for the Socialist youth movement, including the Falken.

25X1X6

Source [redacted] - early February 1949

25X1X6

13. Early in February 1949, FOeJ officials Otto BRICHACEK, Paul FRISCHAUER, and a third unspecified man were present at a meeting in Germany which was attended by Communist youth leaders from other European countries including Italy, France, and Belgium. No details of the meeting are known to source; similar trips on the part of FOeJ officials, particularly to the satellite countries, are very frequent. Since no real attempt is made to keep such trips secret, source interprets FRISCHAUER's coming trip to Moscow and WEISSENBECK's projected trip to the CSR to arrange for Austrian participation in a Czechoslovak labor brigade as indications that the FOeJ does not plan to participate in any strikes or disturbances during April 1949 (when the Soviets will be in control of the International District of Vienna). During the absence of FRISCHAUER and WEISSENBECK, the Vienna secretary, VOSOL, will take over most of the running of FOeJ. *

Tenants' Association and KPOe

25X1X6

Source [redacted] - late February 1949

14. The KPOe District Headquarters of Vienna II was successful by means of a shrewd ruse in electing its candidates as officers in the Tenants' Association (Mietervereinigung). A few days before the election was to take place, Communist members of the Tenants' Association called on non-Communist members and collected membership cards belonging to the latter, asserting that the membership cards were required at the central offices of the Tenants' Association for recording purposes. About 200 cards were collected in this manner and distributed to reliable Communists. These Communists, with their illegally-acquired membership cards in the Tenants' Association, managed to pack an election meeting of the Association by arriving several hours before the election was to be held. The Police Chief of Vienna II,** a Communist, then refused to admit anyone else because of police injunctions against overcrowding. The result was the election by a vote of 300 to 87 of Communist Gemeinderat SCHREDER to head the Tenants' Association of Vienna II.***

KPOe and USIA

25X1X6

25X1X6

Source [redacted] - 1 February 1949

15. A determined effort is being made by USIA to increase control over workers in the USIA plants by intensifying Communist activities at such plants and by exerting pressure to force workers into joining the Communist cells. These measures may be due at least in part to the acute displeasure caused recently at USIA Headquarters by unexpected revelation in the hostile press of the USIA pact with Bulgaria; this disclosure is thought by USIA officials to have originated in USIA-controlled factories, specifically those in the field of heavy industry and precision machinery, and is officially attributed to espionage. USIA has taken steps against suspected espionage activity, especially through increased surveillance of administrative officials, and the KPOe has been requested to assist in this policy. Heinrich FRITZ, Central Committee member, is in charge of extending Communist cells in USIA plants; he has stated that Communist cells now include about 60% of the total employees.***

~~SECRET~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY~~
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1A2g

- 6 -

KPOe and Erwin SCHARF

25X1X6

Source [REDACTED] - January 1949

16. The first conclusive example which source has noted of cooperation between the KPOe and Erwin SCHARF's left wing Socialist party, the Progressive Socialists' Association, was the KPOe distribution to a few trusted Communist officials of a pamphlet written by SCHARF on the subject of the Tenants' Association. The officials were instructed to supervise further distribution of the pamphlet but without revealing its origin.*

25X1X6

Source [REDACTED] - 29 January 1949

17. SCHARF has launched a vigorous attack against the policy of industrial collaboration between labor and management, which was recently advocated by Johann BOEHM, Socialist Vice-President of Parliament and President of the Austrian Trade Union Association.** Johann HEINRICH, an editor of the Volksstimme, has allegedly stated that SCHARF will advocate revision of the proposed date of the next Austrian elections from the fall to the spring of 1949. HEINRICH further claimed that other Socialist Party functionaries, even possibly including Minister of the Interior HEINER, might be expected to join SCHARF in opposition to the official Socialist stand. ***

25X1X6

Source [REDACTED] 10 February 1949

18. a. Viktor POSPISCHIL, one of SCHARF's main supporters who is often seen with him at public gatherings, has been a member of the KPOe for some time, according to Johann HEINRICH, a Volksstimme editor.****
- b. Toni BAYER, a member of the SCHARF group, recently stated that SCHARF's activities are attracting many new adherents to his cause. One of the latest converts is said to be the Austrian educator, Josef Luitpold STERN. The latter is allegedly a close friend of Ernst FISCHER; both FISCHER and MATEJKA have influenced STERN's political thinking.*****
- c. BAYER further stated that SCHARF's group would not, at present, identify itself with the Communists since the real function of the group is to win over as many Socialists as possible as sympathizers with SCHARF's doctrines. If the SCHARF supporters can be persuaded to deliver a vote for the Communists, this could be regarded as a protest measure against present Socialist policy. *****

KPOe and Other Communist Parties

25X1X6

Source [REDACTED] - 29 January 1949

19. Giuseppe FERRO of the Italian Consulate in Innsbruck is a known member of the Partito Comunista Italiano. It may be through his mediation that Austrian Communists seem to experience relatively less difficulty in obtaining visas to Italy than other Austrians.*****

25X1X6

Source [REDACTED] - 21 January 1949

20. One DI VITTORIO, Italian labor leader, arrived in Vienna on 21 January 1949 for a ten-day visit to discuss labor matters with KPOe leaders.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1A2g

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

- 7 -

KPOe Educational Activities

25X1X6

Source [] - 24 January 1949

21. Since the KPOe has frequently been criticized for the weakness of its party educational system, an attempt has been made to correct this weakness through institution of the Alfred Klahr Vienna Seminar at Vienna XVIII, Martinstrasse 92; some lectures will also be given at Vienna II, Laufenburggasse. A library will be maintained at the first location. Lectures will be given every Friday on political themes and Marxist interpretation of art and science. *

25X1X6

25X1X6 Source [] 23 February 1949

22. As part of a policy of decentralizing Party educational activities, political lectures in Vienna factory organizations and sections will be carried out by KPOe District Headquarters which alone will have the responsibility for supervising appointment of lecturers and delivery of lectures. 1*

25X1X6

Source [] - 30 January 1949

23. Dr. Franz ZWITTER of Klagenfurt, one KLAUDUS of Oberpullendorf bei Mattersburg, Burgenland, and a third man, name unknown to source, had a confidential conference during the course of a meeting of the Oesterreichisch-Russische Gesellschaft, Vienna I, Johannesgasse 26, on 30 January 1949. Dr. ZWITTER was present in his official capacity as representative of the Slovene Liberation Front (OF). KLAUDUS is a Communist who was officially representing the Croatian minority of Burgenland. KLAUDUS had been planning to organize a book exhibit in Mattersburg and Eisenstadt to take place in February 1949 with the purpose of displaying the progress of Yugoslav literature. He accordingly ordered a number of books from Belgrade and presented his list for approval to the Soviet commander in Eisenstadt. The latter immediately cancelled the proposed list and replaced the titles with others to be procured from Moscow, declaring that "Tito literature" was forbidden. The third unknown man who took part in the conference at the Austro-Russian Society is possibly a representative of Czechoslovak minority groups in Austria. The three men are allegedly planning to form a Section for Minority Groups within the society. One of the first acts which ZWITTER will carry out on behalf of this section is to form branches of the society in Voelkermarkt, Eisenkappel, and Bleiburg, all three in Carinthia.***

25X1X6

Source [] - February 1949

24. Josef TSCHOFENIG, member of the Central Committee, arrived in Vienna from Carinthia in late January or early February 1949. He was accompanied by Johann TUEBK, Josef KOMPEIN, and a certain MATZNER. All four men are to attend a special Party course designed to last about a month. Source has previously reported in late January 1949 that TSCHOFENIG was expected to arrive in Vienna for special training but indicated at that time that he was to be accompanied by Josef MISCHLEWITZER and Johann KALT, both from KPOe Provincial Headquarters in Klagenfurt. A third report from the same source, dated 24 February 1949, indicated that both TSCHOFENIG and Johann KAZIANKA, the latter formerly a member of the Upper Austrian Landtag, were recalled for training to Vienna; in TSCHOFENIG's absence, Hermann LANGBEIN of the Central Committee will function as head of the KPOe provincial organization in Carinthia. Source further reports that TSCHOFENIG's absence from Klagenfurt will coincide with the drawing up of electoral lists for the next Upper Austrian Landtag; source implies that the KPOe intends in this way to prevent TSCHOFENIG from presenting himself as a candidate for the Landtag.****

25X1X6

Communist Press

25X1X6

Source [] - 29 January 1949

25. Financial difficulties continue unabated at Globus Verlag and there have been additional losses in personnel. The newspaper, Illustrierte

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1A2g

- 8 -

Wochenschau, printed on a commission basis until recently by Globus, has gone bankrupt; the paper still owes Globus 15,000 to 20,000 schillings for services rendered. A further continuous deficit is sustained through publication of the Party magazine, Weg und Ziel, published under supervision of the KPOe Central Committee; this magazine retails for 1.50 schillings per copy, of which .32 schillings per copy revert to Globus.*

25X1X6

25X1X6 Source - 8 February 1949

26. The number of Globus employees has dropped from a post-war high of 1,200 to 850 at present; further reductions in personnel are expected at the end of March 1949. An arrangement has been made by USIA with Globus whereby USIA will supply Globus with some of its necessary printing supplies in exchange for cancellation of outstanding USIA debts to Globus. Globus will also benefit, along with other unspecified KPOe publishing firms, through the printing of booklets on political subjects for eastern Germany; the total contract amounts allegedly to 190,000 schillings. Globus will receive in exchange for the booklets an equivalent amount of scientific publications and belles-lettres from the Reklam-Universum publishing house in Leipzig.**

25X1X6

Source - February 1949

27. a. The following table shows the circulation of certain Communist publications for the month of February 1949:

<u>Volksstimme</u>	weekly edition	62,000 (42,000 subscribers)
	Sunday edition	100,000 (70,000 subscribers)
<u>Der Abend</u>		20,000
<u>Die Woche</u>	over	80,000 (formerly, 160,000)
<u>Die Landpost</u>		10,000
<u>Nach der Arbeit</u>		34,000 (70,000 to 75,000 in 1948)
<u>Jugend Voran</u> (FOeJ)		8,000
<u>Der Mahnruf</u> (Concentration Camp Victims)		10,000
<u>Der Neue Weg</u> (for Jews)		6,000
<u>Tagblatt am Montag</u>		45,000
Party newspapers such as		
<u>Der Wiener Vertrauensmann</u>		6,000
<u>Der Eisenbahner</u>		12,000
<u>Der Lehrling</u> (new publication, selling for .20 schillings)		4,000
<u>Der Junggardist</u>		Figures not known
<u>Freies Burgenland</u>		8,500 (formerly 10,000)

- b. In general, Communist publications are subject to the same financial difficulties as other Austrian newspapers. Der Neue Weg, mentioned in the preceding paragraph as an organ for Jews belonging to the KPOe, has several times been on the brink of collapse. Die Wespe, not cited above, which replaced Der Irel after the latter publication had been confiscated for obscenity, is also in financial straits and will probably go under. Der Abend has done fairly well, chiefly because of its excellent sports section which is directed by Fritz BAAR, an international football player. BAAR served in the British

~~SECRET~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1A2g

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

- 9 -

Army and is probably the only non-Communist editor to be found with any Communist newspaper in Austria. He has even gone so far as to criticize the recent Czechoslovak sports regulations.

- c. The Communist press has been printing large orders of novels in newspaper form, especially Metropolroman and Neues Abenteuer. The former was printed in edition of 60,000 for Austria and 200,000 for the eastern zone of Germany.
- d. Large orders have also been carried out for Hungary. Recently, a Hungarian Communist Party calendar was printed in two colors; some 250,000 copies had been ordered and were transported across the frontier by Soviet trucks. Close collaboration with Hungary is demonstrated by publication of a Hungarian edition of the Vienna Soviet-sponsored Welt-Illustrierte which is also conveyed to Hungary by Soviet trucks. Large orders from Yugoslavia have been cancelled or left unfilled. Great hopes of extensive business with the eastern zone of Germany have allegedly been hampered by the Austrian Government. *

25X1X6

Source [] - late January - early February 1949

- 28. a. A campaign to sell 30,000 copies of the Carinthian Communist daily, Volkswille, was carried out with success on 13 February 1949. Carinthian provincial functionaries of the KPOe took personal charge of the campaign since the ordinary members displayed little interest in pushing the newspaper. A similar effort will be made by the KPOe in the future to organize a sales campaign for the Volkswille one Sunday per month.
- b. The personnel director of the Communist printing house in Klagenfurt, Kaerntner Volksverlag, Leopold HLAWATSCH, was recalled to Vienna on 20 January 1949; his replacement was one WASSER, a Viennese of Jewish extraction. A new manager (Betriebsleiter) for the firm, a certain SINKGRUBER, formerly with Globus Verlag, will shortly be sent from Vienna. **
- 29. a. Since KPOe Provincial Headquarters in Klagenfurt had to meet heavy expenses in connection with its Party school at the Pension Lex, Dellach, the Kaerntner Volksverlag found itself with insufficient funds to pay a bill amounting to 350,000 schillings. To cover the difference in available funds and amount due, the veteran Communist, Franz RAUNIK, made a contribution of 85,000 schillings. RAUNIK, a baker, born on 4 October 1885 in Leifling, Austrian national, residing in Klagenfurt at Voelkermarkterstrasse 70, is a member of the advisory board of the new Association of Concentration Camp Victims (KZ-Verband), and a member of the Democratic Economic Union (Demokratischer Wirtschaftsverband). ***
- b. Four-fifths of the Kaerntner Volksverlag are now owned by Globus Verlag; the remaining one-fifth is owned by KPOe Provincial Headquarters in Klagenfurt. All salaries are paid by Globus Verlag.
- c. One KOEPPL of Globus Verlag, no further details known, is reported to have carried out an inspection of the Kaerntner Volksverlag.
- d. The Carinthian daily, Volkswille, allegedly has a circulation of 7,000 to 8,000; its best former circulation was about 15,000.

KPOe and OF (See also paragraph 21 above.)

25X1X6

Source [] - 12 February 1949

- 30. A meeting between leaders of the KPOe Provincial Headquarters in Klagenfurt and OF leaders took place on 12 February 1949. The meeting represented an attempt to reconcile differences between the OF and the KPOe. Discussion was continued on 17-18 February but no solution was reached. The KPOe is particularly anxious to retain its OF support in the coming Austrian elections. The OF officials allegedly declared that they had to

~~SECRET~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

~~SECRET~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
 U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1A2g

- 10 -

Business Activities of the KPOe

25X1X6

Source [REDACTED] - February 1949

31. Paul URBAN, part owner of the Wiener Aussenhandelsgesellschaft Urban & Co. G.m.b.H., Vienna I, Fuehrichgasse 6, recently told source that the KPOe had a half interest in his business. URBAN is said to be about 38 years old; he was born in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, but has lived most of his life in Austria and is now an Austrian citizen. Source feels that URBAN joined the KPOe solely for business reasons. His firm deals mostly in import of food products. URBAN also told source that the KPOe had a 75 percent interest in the firm of Samuel INSICHT.*

25X1X6

Travel of KPOe Personalities

25X1X6

Source [REDACTED] - 27 January 1949

32. On the basis of a conversation overheard by source, Heinrich DUERMAYER and MAREK were due to leave for Moscow on 10 February 1949, allegedly to receive instructions as to the propaganda to be developed by the KPOe. **

Communist Personalities

25X1X6

Source [REDACTED] January 1949

33. a. Herbert FRIESENBICHLER, residing in Vienna VIII, Preilgasse 42a/III, 25 years old, works for the information office (Informations-buero) of the Central Committee. He is living with an unidentified forty-year-old Jewess, said to be a Soviet agent.***
- b. A certain Frau PAULIN is the secretary of Walter FISCHER, brother of Ernst FISCHER, at KPOe District Headquarters, Vienna X.****
- c. Heine MACHACEK, until recently a leading official (Organisationsleiter) for Kinderland, has allegedly turned over his duties to BECHARDI, hitherto inspector and consultant for pedagogy. MACHACEK will turn his attention to the Kinderland office in the Central Committee Building.*****
- d. Hanna BERGER, Austrian dancer and director of a Communist children's theater, together with Harry SPIEGEL, KPOe member, are to be summoned to appear before a Communist Party Court to answer for an alleged theft of 500 schillings from Party funds.*****
- e. Ernst FRIEDRICH and Alice LEDERER are both working in KPOe District Headquarters, Vienna XX. LEDERER spent the war years in England and returned to Austria in 1945; he has served on a number of Communist youth delegations to foreign countries.*****
- f. Eduard KRAHL, Bezirksleiter for KPOe District Headquarters, Vienna IV, is also assigned a job in the Werkschutz command. He has a number of personal associations with Soviet personnel.*****
- g. Prof. Hans KNAUER, orchestra leader, residing at Vienna IV, Weyringergasse 27, has recently taken charge of a committee of teachers and educators directed by the Central Committee. One TEICHERT, residing at Vienna X, Van der Nuellgasse, also works on the committee of teachers and educators, in addition to his other duties in the bookkeeping and disbursing office of the Central Committee. TEICHERT's brother-in-law, Walter KIRSCH, is an editor of the Kinderland publication.
- h. PLETZL, formerly of the Staatspolizei, is now an official of Kinderland in Vienna.*****

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1X6

- 11 -

Source - January 1949

34. a. Dr. Valentin STRECHA, police official, is allegedly attempting to recruit reliable Communist to work for the Soviet MVD.*
- b. Kurt BUNTSCHOWITZ (or BUTSCHOWITZ), Vienna XVIII, Peter Jordanstrasse 27, a member of the KPÖ, recently boasted that he had just made a trip to Bratislava without a passport in company with a diplomat from one of the Eastern European states.
- c. Friedl FUERNBERG's family occupies a number of important posts. His wife, Elli FUERNBERG, runs the Austrian section of TASS. His sister Erna directs a business which manages a number of hotels and restaurants. At present, the concern controls the Riesenrad restaurant and a lodging house in Puchentuben, Lower Austria; other lodging houses were formerly maintained in Mondsee, Salzburg Province, and Gerlos-Platte, Tyrol. FUERNBERG's brother-in-law, Hans JELLINEK, was consultant on personnel for the Soviet Oil Administration and is now on a trip to Berlin and Warsaw on KPÖ business.

Comments:Page 1

25X1A6a * Comment: The Communists now have four seats in Parliament.

Page 2

25X1A6a * Comment: While a cooler estimate of Communist election prospects is given in the preceding paragraph, it is of interest that this and similar remarks are allegedly made on all Party levels not infrequently.

25X1A6a ** Comment: VORROJ is probably identical with a person of the same name, said to be both an employee of Globus Verlag and social consultant at FOeJ National Headquarters, who, in was reported among Communist functionaries attending the Leo Gabler KPÖ school, Vienna XVIII, Martinstrasse 92, in August 1948. 25X1A2g

25X1A6a *** Comment: SCHMIDTBAUER is possibly identical with an Alois SCHMIDTBAUER, now residing at Längergasse 90, Graz, who, in the fall of 1947, attended a Communist school at Vienna II, Laufbergergasse 12. Criticism of the KPÖ by foreign Communist critics is not new, and it is unlikely on other evidence that the KPÖ will be reorganized in the foreseeable future.

25X1A6a **** Comment: Similar reports of rifts within the Central Committee have always failed to materialize; notably, reports of "deviationism" on the part of FISCHER are regarded as improbable.

Page 3

25X1A6a * Comment: The program outlined in a through f bears a strong resemblance to that of certain Central Committee directives, purporting to have been issued in January 1949, which allegedly laid down plans for an "Abwehr" campaign to gather military information concerning the Western Allies.

25X1X6 Source in January 1949 reported the initiation of a similar program but attributed its origin to the Central Committee Information Office under Franz MAREK, rather than to the Kampfbund gegen die Kriegshetzer, as stated above. A consideration of the dubious ultimate provenance and subsequent transmittal of all this information renders the assumption at least possible that all reports on this theme have been fabricated wholly or in part. Nevertheless, while suspicion as to their genuineness is heightened by the fairly grandiose plans for projected espionage against the Western Powers, it should be remembered that there may be a great difference between elaborate plans for such action and modest attempts to put such action into effect. The underlying nucleus of all these reports, that the KPÖ is interested in gathering military information concerning the Western Powers, may well be true, though it is unlikely that this campaign is being organized in detail or pushed with great vigor.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~SECRET/CONTROL U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY~~
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1A2g

- 12 -

25X1A6a Page 3 (cont)

** [REDACTED] Comment: Said to be a pseudonym; there are no file traces on this individual.

25X1A6a*** [REDACTED] Comment: It has been reported that Robert ROSSAK, believed to be a Moscow-trained representative of the KPOe at the Trattnerhof headquarters of USIA, has made several trips to Vorarlberg in recent months. ROSSAK, mentioned in [REDACTED] may possibly be connected with the above-mentioned KPOe campaign in Vorarlberg. 25X1A2g

25X1A6a*** [REDACTED] Comment: ENGLER has not been previously reported. BURGHART and HEIL are presumably identical with BURKHART and Peter HEIL, reported in [REDACTED] as FOeJ plants in the Gewerkschaftsjugend. The preceding paragraph is fragmentary and in no sense a complete picture of KPOe activity in the trade unions. 25X1A2g

25X1A6a**** [REDACTED] Comment: JELINKO was mentioned in [REDACTED] on 3 February 1949, however, Source C reported that JELINKO was no longer national head of Kinderland though he remained honorary president. STEIGER, reported as secretary in [REDACTED] was allegedly no longer a paid official. To judge by paragraph 33 c, a number of changes have occurred recently in Kinderland. 25X1A2g

Page 4

25X1A2g

25X1A6a [REDACTED] Comment: In [REDACTED] the new address of Vienna FOeJ Headquarters was said to be Vienna IV, Prinz Eugenstrasse 30. 25X1A2g

25X1A6a [REDACTED] Comment: As reported in [REDACTED] ASCHER replaced SCHWARZ at Vienna FOeJ Headquarters, while wrangling between SCHWARZ and BRICHACEK was reported in [REDACTED] see also the following paragraph. 25X1A2g

5X1A6a*** [REDACTED] Comment: This tendency was reported in [REDACTED] 25X1A2g

Page 5

25X1X6

25X1A6a [REDACTED] Comment: Source [REDACTED] reported that Georg BREUER and Kim UNGER, well-known FOeJ officials, went to Germany in early February 1949 to meet Werner FISCHER of the Freie Deutsche Jugend; the purpose of the meeting was allegedly to take action on a Soviet suggestion that a Pan-European Youth Organization be created with headquarters in Germany. It is considered likely that these two reports refer to the same meeting.

25X1A6a** [REDACTED] Comment: Gottfried HOLZER is possibly meant: see [REDACTED] 25X1A2g

*** [REDACTED] Comment: This may be identical with Ludwig SCHREDER of the Verband Politischer Haeflinge.

25X1A6a**** [REDACTED] Comment: This number seems greatly exaggerated; however, source attributes the growth of the Communist cells to pressure from USIA management, reluctant workers are subject to discharge as "incompetent"; CP welfare measures have also gained new members, he states.

Page 6

25X1A6a* [REDACTED] Comment: The pamphlet in question was presumably not signed by SCHARF.

** [REDACTED] Comment: BOEHM's conciliatory speech in January 1949 before the Union of Austrian Industrialists was not particularly well received by many rank-and-file Socialists.

25X1A6a*** [REDACTED] Comment: Defection of HELNER or any other prominent Socialist to SCHARF's group is regarded as fantastic.

25X1A6a**** [REDACTED] Comment: POSPISCHIL has not been previously reported.

**** [REDACTED] Comment: Josef Luitpold STERN is a well-known Austrian Socialist approved for Release 1999/09/24 : CIA-RDP82-00457R002700050004-7 returned to Austria after [REDACTED] war. He is now in charge of a post home [REDACTED]

- 13 -

Page 6 (cont)

for construction workers and wood-workers at Kefermarkt, Muehlviertel, Upper Austria. It is possible that STERN, like RENNERT and other old-line Austrian Socialists, has remained a Marxist, but his support of SCHARF is entirely unconfirmed. BAYER has not been previously reported.

25X1A6a

Comment: See also paragraph 3 b above.

Comment: The report does not make it clear whether the Italian Consulate in Innsbruck is the sole channel through which Austrian Communists obtain Italian visas.

Page 7

25X1A6a
Comment: The Martinstrasse address is known to be the permanent seat of the Leo Gabler Party school. Another source reports that HONNER made a speech on 20 January 1949 at a session of the school concerning the Communist attitude toward the coming elections.

25X1A6a
Comment: By "decentralization" source presumably means that this responsibility has been delegated to the district offices by KPOe City Headquarters.

25X1A6a

Comment: Dr. ZWITTER, editor of the OF organ Slovenski Vestnik, has been frequently mentioned in reports; LAUDUS has not been previously reported.

25X1A6a

Comment: The only point in which all three reports agree is the arrival of TSCHOFENIG in Vienna for some sort of Party training, however this is to be interpreted. NISCHELMITZER, TUEK, and KOMPEIN cannot be identified with any certainty; MATZNER may be identical with Simunit MATZNER, a well-known Austrian Communist; KALT is editor of the Carinthian Communist newspaper. Volkswille; NISCHELMITZER may be identical with Josef NISCHELMITZER of [REDACTED]

Page 8 25X1A2g

25X1A6a
Comment: Weg und Ziel is edited by Franz MAREK, assisted by Hermann LANGBEIN, both of the Central Committee, and its editorial office is in the Central Committee building at Vienna IX, Wasagasse 10.

25X1A6a
Comment: Previous reports have indicated that recent proceeds from book sales have had a galvanizing effect on the lethargic finances of Globus.

Page 9

25X1A6a
Comment: Source does not specify which Communist printing house he is discussing in these remarks, but it is presumably Globus Verlag. He further fails to indicate in what way the Austrian Government has countered any publishing schemes aimed at Germany, especially since the discussion in paragraph 27 d above indicates that Communist publications can evade Austrian law with Soviet assistance.

25X1A6a
**
Comment: HLAWATSCH, WASSER, and SINKGRUBER are otherwise unknown.

25X1A6a

Comment: RAUNIK has not been previously listed.

25X1A6a

Comment: Another source reported a similar meeting on 24 January, led by FISCHER and FUERNBERG for the KPOe and Dr. ZWITTER for the OF.

10

25X1X6a
*
Comment: This firm is probably S. Inslicht Export-Import G.m.b.H., Vienna IV, Wohllebengasse 18. The owner of this firm is probably identical with Sam INSLICHT, residing at Vienna XIX, Cottagegasse 96, listed in the Vienna telephone directory as correspondent for New Life Senior Press, Ltd., London. Source reported on 14 February 1949, that the Transport-Express firm, Vienna IV, Wohllebengasse 18, is a cover enterprise for the KPOe. Since this firm is not listed in the 1949 Handels-Compass, nor in the Vienna telephone directory, it is not possible to identify the Inslicht firm with Transport-Express, though both are at the same address. The name of the latter firm implies a transport or forwarding company; it may be noted that Juschweschtrans and

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

- 14 -

Page 10 (cont)

... and Co., both Soviet-controlled forwarding agencies, have offices at Vienna IV, Wohllebengasse 8. Transport Express is allegedly headed by Hans KLEMPER, formerly POEJ Bezirksleiter for Vienna IV; one Kurt ELSNER, not previously reported, a member of the Academic Freedom Fighters Society, is said to be an employee. Offices of Transport-Express are said to be well guarded, presumably by the KPOe.

25X1A6a

**

Comment: This report is completely unconfirmed. Other alleged movements of Communists will be reported separately.

25X1A6a

Comment: FRIESENBIHLER has not been previously reported.

Comment: Possibly Anna PAULIN, reported as a leading Viennese woman Communist.

25X1A6a

Comment: Possibly MACHACEK will work at the new office mentioned in paragraph 11a above rather than at the Central Committee building. BICHARDI has also been spelled PICHARDI and is otherwise unknown. MACHACEK has been spelled MACHACEK in 25X1A2g

25X1A6a

Comment: BERGER and SPIEGEL are both known; SPIEGEL was mentioned in

25X1A2g

25X1A2g

25X1A6a

Comment: Both individuals were mentioned in 25X1A2g
Comment: KRAHL, KPOe district head in Vienna IV, was reported in 25X1A2g as Josef KRAHL, tailor, with shop and residence in Vienna IV, Favoritenstrasse 54. Both KRAHL of this report and KRAHL of 25X1A2g are probably identical with Eduard KRAL, tailor, listed in the Vienna telephone directory in Vienna IV, Favoritenstrasse 48. 25X1A2g

25X1A6a

Comment: KIRSCH has been previously reported as an employee at KPOe Headquarters. KNAUER, PLETZL, and TEICHERT are previously unknown.

Page 11

25X1A6a

*

Comment: STRECHA, born in Vienna in 1916, was a former secretary of DUERMAYER, and has been active in the Communist Party since 1934;